FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 FEBRUARY 1986

IDF Search Operation in Lebanon

IDF units continued their search for the two kidnapped Israeli soldiers on the morning of 19 February, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that IDF officers believe the kidnap squad is still in southern Lebanon. Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance warned that one of the captive Israelis will be executed if the IDF does not withdraw by 1900 GMT 19 February from all the villages that were "targets of the latest Israeli invasion," AFP disclosed. The IDF spokesman earlier acknowledged that an IDF corporal was killed 18 February when an Israeli boat off the coast of Tyre came under fire from the shore, according to Jerusalem radio. The IDF uncovered many arms caches and interrogated hundreds of local residents in the searches that day, the radio noted. Beirut radio carried various reports on local resistance to the Israelis, including an Amal Movement statement claiming that the Israelis lost a helicopter, a warship, and a tank in the fighting. In remarks broadcast by the radio, Amal leader Nabih Birri congratulated the kidnappers on their "heroic deed" and told Israel that "the only solution lies in its unconditional and total withdrawal, along with its agents, from all Lebanese territory." In another development, the kidnappers of a group of Lebanese Jews announced the execution of another Jewish hostage in a communique reported by AFP, maintaining that the "spy" was executed in response to Israel's "terrorist" operations in southern Lebanon.

Iran-Iraq War

The three Iraqi columns resumed their advance 18 February after crushing a series of "desperate" enemy attacks in which 1,280 Iranians were killed and large numbers were captured, Iraq announced in a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The Iraqi Navy destroyed another troop ship carrying Iranian reinforcements, the communique added, and Iraqi air defenses shot down two more Iranian warplanes. Another Iranian fighter was downed early 19 February, according to an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA.

An Iranian communique reported by Tehran radio acknowledged "large-scale" Iraqi attempts to penetrate Iranian positions around Al Faw 18 February, but maintained that the Iranians inflicted a severe defeat on the enemy, killing or wounding hundreds of enemy troops. On the chemical weapons issue, IRNA noted that 35 Iranians have arrived in West Europe to receive treatment for injuries caused by chemical weapons.

Jordan

In a related development, the Jordanian Government denounced "flagrant Libyan support for the criminal Iranian aggression" in a statement broadcast by Amman radio, reaffirming Jordan's "full support" for Iraq.

Libya-Chad

GUNT forces have military control over Zigey, Kouba Olanga, and six other towns below the 16th parallel in Chad, a GUNT military spokesman told Libya's Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio. The spokesman condemned the French Government air raid on Ouadi Doum airport 16 February and said that a Chadian pilot flying a GUNT fighter plane attacked Ndjamena airport in retaliation.

Syria

Damascus television broadcast the "text" of President Hafiz al-Asad's interview with the Paris paper *LIBERATION* in which he emphasized his desire to avoid any Syrian military intervention in internal Lebanese conflicts, even if the parties fail to reach a solution. Affirming that the tripartite agreement remains "the only door for the Lebanese to achieve peace," Al-Asad criticized President Amin al-Jumayyil's stand on the agreement as "not positive or constructive." On relations with Jordan, he stressed the importance of continuing good relations, though he noted that no date has been set for him to visit Amman. As for the PLO, Al-Asad disclosed that he received PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi in Damascus "a few months ago," but he reiterated Syria's opposition to the PLO-Jordanian agreement.

Algeria

President Chadli Bendjedid appointed four new ministers and five new deputy ministers and reorganized the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, Algiers radio reported.

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Gandhi Interviewed on Global Peace, Space Defence

BK160923 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said the developing countries should desist from mutual rivalries and disputes to promote global peace and development. In an interview to the Mexico newspaper *EXCELSIOR*, he said the U.S. space defense system called star wars is not capable of maintaining world peace and it is best abandoned. Mr Gandhi said that the Geneva summit between President Reagan and the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, last November was a significant step, but more concrete steps are now expected of these two superpowers.

Gandhi Receives Message From Sri Lanka President

BK181633 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] A message from President Jayewardene regarding Sri Lanka's position on the ethnic issue was delivered to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today by the island's high commissioner, Mr Bernard Tilakaratna. The foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, who has been in close touch with the efforts to find a solution to the problem, was present at Mr Bernard's meeting with the prime minister. An official spokesman said there will be further meetings between Mr Bhandari and Mr Tilakaratna. He added that the prime minister conveyed his concern to Mr Tilakaratna over the continuing violence in Sri Lanka and reiterated the need for an urgent and peaceful political solution to the issue.

'Variance' in Pakistan's Kashmir Statements Seen

BK131451 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1435 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] Responding to newsmen's queries on Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr Zain Noorani's reported remarks that "A military solution to the Kashmir problem should be avoided as far as possible" on 9th February, 1986 in the National Assembly, the official spokesman said the following:

We have seen varying accounts of this statement in press. In may be recalled that when he was in Delhi on December 17, 1985, president of Pakistan General Ziaul Haq had stated that the Kashmir issue would be resolved at an appropriate time in accordance with the Simla agreement. We have taken due note of the fact that subsequent statements on Kashmir issue by senior functionaries of Pakistan Government have been at variance with what President Ziaul Haq had stated in New Delhi.

French Official Arrives for Talks 13 February

BK131644 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] The secretary general in the French foreign office Mr Andre Ross arrived in New Delhi today on a 3 day visit. During his stay in the capital Mr Ross will meet the external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, and the minister of state, Mr K.R. Narayanan, and discuss matters of mutual interest.

Punjab, Haryana Chief Ministers Meet Home Minister

BK181618 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The chief ministers of Punjab and Haryana had a meeting with the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, in New Delhi today. An official spokesman later said that they discussed issues concerning the Punjab accord. The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere. The minister of state for internal security, Mr Arun Nehru, was also present. They decided to meet against next week. Earlier, Mr Barnala [Punjab chief] had a meeting with the prime minister.

Speaking to newsmen separately, both the chief ministers said the Punjab accord should be implemented and the stalemate must end. During the talks, they had reiterated their earlier stand. Mr Bhajan Lal [Haryana chief] said the two chief ministers will visit the Sutlej-Yamuna link canal site to see the progress in its construction. Mr Barnala said he had a separate meeting with Mr Arun Nehru and discussed with him the law-and-order situation in Punjab.

Policeman, Congress-I Worker Killed in Punjab

BK190849 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] In Punjab, a subinspector of police was killed when two unidentified youths fired on him in a village near Gurdaspur this morning. The victim was waiting for a bus when he was attacked. The assailants, who were riding a scooter, escaped.

In another incident, one person was shot dead by gunmen last night in a village near Nihalsinghwala in Faridkot District. The victim has been identified as a former sarpanch [village head] and a Congress-I worker.

SRI LANKA

35 Killed by Mine; U.S. Journalist To Be Deported

BK191420 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Thirty-one civilians and 4 soldiers were killed in a Marxist terrorist landmine explosion at (Puttam) in Serunuwara this morning. Security sources told *LANKA PUWATH* that a truck carrying civilians and a few soldiers was caught up in a landmine placed by the terrorists. Thirty-four other civilians were also injured as a result of the explosion. Security sources said that the terrorists had committed this heinous crime to destabilize resettlement plan of the government. It is the first time that so many people were killed in a landmine explosion.

In two other separate incidents, nine soldiers were injured as a result of bomb explosion. Five soldiers were injured when the terrorists hurled two hand grenades (?at them) at (Punering) in Kilinochchi yesterday. The incident occurred as a security force patrolled from (Punering) [word indistinct] was ambushed by the terrorists about 200 yards away from the camp. In the other incident, four soldiers were injured when the terrorists set off a landmine at the third milepost along the [name indistinct] road in Amparai yesterday. At that time, the security forces personnel were proceeding toward Moratuwa from [name indistinct].

According to informed sources, Mrs Janet Vyshinski, an American free lance journalist, will be deported today for alleged connection with the terrorist group, Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, TELO. Security sources also said that she was a well-known terrorist agent. Following the release of the British free lance journalist, Mrs Penelope Willis, yesterday by EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students], government wishes to stop foreign journalists from going to the north and to the east in future.

Two Marxist terrorists were killed when security forces repulsed an attack at (Ellitiballi) in Mullaittivu yesterday. Security sources told *LANKA PUWATH* that a group of terrorist traveling in a lorry attacked a security forces patrol. The soldiers then returned fire killing two terrorists. The terrorists took away the bodies of their dead colleagues in their vehicle. During the crossfire, a soldier received minor injury and a woman at a nearby house also died. Another security forces patrol detected two landmines near the old camp at (Thandamannr) in Jaffna yesterday. When the troops were removing the landmine, terrorists had fired at them. The troops returned fire and removed the landmine. Terrorist casualties were not known. Troops also recovered some explosives.

Government Rejects TULF Proposals on Ethnic Issue

BK191140 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government, replying to the proposals made by the Tamil United Liberation Front in a resolution on the ethnic problem, has said that the proposals were totally unacceptable and that, if implemented, the TULF would have attained all but Eelam [independent Tamil state]. The government observations on the TULF proposals were submitted to the Indian Government early this month.

Freed Journalist Says Tamils Want Marxist State

HK191306 Hong Kong AFP in English 1231 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Colombo, Feb 19 (AFP) — A British journalist released yesterday by militant Tamil separatists today said all the militant groups want to set up a Marxist state in Sri Lanka.

Previously only the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam (Plot) was considered be Marxist, and this was the first time the separatists have admitted a goal of establishing a Marxist state rather than just a Tamil state.

The government recently has started saying the numerous militant groups want to set up a Marxist state, and the issue is political rather than ethnic.

Penelope Willis, released after a one-month abduction in the north where militants are fighting for an independent state for Tamils, said her captors told her they wanted to set up a Marxist state and that all the other separatist groups were Marxists.

She was speaking to three journalists, including the AGENCE FRANCE-RPESSE correspondent.

Mrs. Willis, from Cornwall in England, said she was captured in Mullaitivu by four armed men from the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) which said she was a British intelligence agent working for the Sri Lanka Government against the separatists.

She said at first her treatment was rough and she spent the first day in a hut, but she was able to show during many hours of interrogation that she was not an intelligence agent.

"I have no connection with any intelligence organisation," she said.

Her confinement became more tolerable as she was moved to the Jaffna peninsula and into better living quarters with better food.

She asked for an received pen and paper and spent her time trying to write a travel book on Greece where she had spent some time some years ago.

She said she was generally treated well and did not know about the intended release until two days earlier.

She said she had come to Sri Lanka for the third time in less than a year to try to understand the situation here.

President Khamene'i Tours Gilan Province

LD191131 Tehran IRNA in English 1127 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov., Feb. 19, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i accompanied by Air Force commander, his advisor, and a number of Majlis deputies arrived here Wednesday morning for a tour of the province.

The president and the accompanying delegation were welcomed at the airport by local civilian and military officials and the Friday prayers leader of Rasht and representative of Imam Khomeyni to the province, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ehsan Bakhsh.

A large number of people and families of martyrs had gathered at the airport to welcome the president.

UN Envoy Discusses Security Council Meeting

GF190525 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The permanent representative of our country in the United Nations Mr Raja'i-Khorasani, gave a telephone interview to the correspondent of the Central News Unit to explain the goal of the Iraqi regime's activities in the Security Council and its expectations from this session. He said: Following the very successful attack by the warriors of Islam inside Iraq, Iraq has concentrated its only hope on the political front. It delivered a request signed by eight ministers from some Arab countries to the council. This mobilization of signatures shows Iraq's extreme desperation in the military field. From the council's point of view a request for a session can be made by one or any number of members. The number makes no difference.

The Iranian representative, answering a question concerning the response to the victories of the warriors of Islam in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations in or outside the United Nations, said: The United Nations is totally aware of the victories of the army of Islam. Political and military analysts consider the victory one of the most noteable and victorious military successes of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As far as Iran's participation in the Security Council session is concerned, Mr Raja'i-Khorasani said: I do not believe it is in our interest to participate in the session. We left the council for a number of reasons and as long as these reasons are present, there is no cause for us to return to the council.

Noting the changes in the membership of the council, compared with previous years, and the presence of a larger number of members who are friends of the Islamic Republic, he said: Our problem with the council is that from the start it carried out all its political moves in a 1-sided way. All of them were in the interest of Iraq. It approved resolutions of which almost all were first drafted by Iraq. What we now expect from the council is that it should decisively and clearly show that it is prepared to face the issues without bias. For example, in the case of the use of chemical weapons, we have asked the council not to remain indifferent to this international crime. If the council condemns this and if it decides to condemn the war that Saddam carried out against cities and civilians and the threat against military aircraft [as heard], then we are prepared to return to the council. When we do this, it means that we will abide by the council's declarations. He added: There is much proof, both in the form of Security Council documents as well as international reports from hospitals in Iran and Europe and the fronts, that attest to Iraq's use of chemical weapons. If the Security Council is prepared to condemn this inhuman act by the Iraqi regime on the basis of all such documented evidence, then we would feel that the council has an unbiased and strong position and we would willingly participate in it.

Velayati, Aqazadeh Lead Delegation to Algiers

View Importance of Oil

LD161802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Interview with Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent on 16 February; place not given — recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati and Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh left this afternoon leading a delegation to Algiers in order to hold talks with Algerian officials. Before their departure, the foreign and oil ministers spoke to our correspondent about the objectives of the visit:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Aqazadeh, would you please tell us about the topics you are going to raise during your visit to Algeria?

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you know, during the meeting that took place in Libya, it was decided to hold talks later with some other countries and then report the outcomes of such contacts in a meeting that would be held with foreign and oil ministers of Algeria and Libya. In this meeting, decisions made earlier during the previous session would once again be reviewed and finalized.

The present visit, therefore, is taking place in light of what I just said. Another issue that will be raised is the importance of the oil issue in our country, in the Third World, and in the oil-producing countries. Oil has serious consequences, politically and economically, in these countries as well as in ours. We hope that this session may be able to launch serious counterattacks against current conspiracies. As for other matters, I ask Velayati to deal with them.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As Aqazadeh stated, oil is an important and strategic commodity for us. OPEC is the most important organization belonging to the Third World countries and has a fateful influence on the economic life of the whole world, particularly the industrial countries. Therefore, it should be used as an organization to promote the common objectives of the oil-producing Third World countries. Every attempt must be made in any form, to prevent efforts that aim to weaken this organization.

The fact that OPEC decisions must be adhered to is the most important task in strengthening this organ belonging to the Third

World. One of the decisions made by OPEC was to reduce the price to a level of which everyone is aware. Furthermore, another decision was made to maintain the production ceiling. Regrettably, some members ignore these vital issues. As a consequence, it is the members of the Third World countries who suffer, while the main consumer countries, namely the industrial countries, benefit. Unfortunately, in view of recent developments, the industrial countries have stepped up their plundering of the Third World.

The multilateral session that is to convene in Algeria shortly includes foreign and oil ministers of some OPEC countries. They will have to give proper thought to ways of countering and fighting this recent plot, initiated by some plundering industrial countries of the world like Britain. God willing, we hope that the preliminary arrangements that have already been made may lead to an effective session of oil ministers of OPEC to counter these plots. [End recording]

Arrive in Algiers

LD170603 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Algiers, Feb. 17, IRNA — The foreign affairs and oil ministers of Iran, 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, arrived here Sunday night to take part in tripartite meeting of oil and foreign ministers of Algeria, Libya and Iran.

The oil and foreign ministers of the three countries are scheduled to discuss the critical situation in world oil market, here Monday and ways to encounter plots of Western industrial countries to push oil prices down.

Oil ministers of Libya, Algeria and Iran, in a meeting in Tripoli early in Feb., discussed the oil market situation.

It was decided in Tripoli meeting that both oil and foreign ministers of the three countries, in a joint session in Algiers, adopt a unified measure to encounter the oil market situation.

Meet Algerian, Libyan Ministers

LD180723 Tehran IRNA in English 0718 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA — Oil ministers of Iran, Algeria and Libya, in a meeting in Algiers Monday, discussed situation in oil market. The meeting was also attended by foreign minister of the three countries.

The oil ministers discussed a report of their Tripoli meeting held early in Feb.

They criticized certain OPEC member countries which are helping plots aimed at pushing down oil prices.

At the end of the session a committee was set up to formulate proposals made by foreign and oil ministers of the three countries on ways to confront current situation in the market and also prepare a joint statement.

Call for Pre-OPEC Meeting

LD181804 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Algiers, Feb. 18, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati participating in the tripartite meeting of foreign ministers of Algeria, Libya and Iran, met and conferred here Tuesday with his Algerian counterpart Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi.

In the meeting mutual relations between the two countries and ways of expanding them were discussed. Also talks were held on ways of coordinating the three countries strategy to foil the oil price conspiracy as well as to preserve the existence of OPEC.

The two sides called for a pre-OPEC gathering of member countries before its formal session is held.

Communique Issued

LD181825 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Algiers, Feb 18, IRNA — Iran, Algeria and Libya have called for an immediate ministerial meeting of OPEC member states in order to adopt unified measures for stabilizing the international market status of oil. The decision came in the wake of a meeting here this week between the Iranian oil minister, Aqazadeh and Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Iravani and their Algerian and Libyan counterparts.

A communique published here Tuesday said the declining oil prices is the result of a strategem by foreign powers not solely directed against the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries but more so against all developing nations. It said the current trend in the oil market is directed also with the ultimate purpose of making it impossible for the developing nations to exploit their own natural resources to their own best interests, and raise (?revenue) for their economic development plans...

The tripartite communique said the three countries insist on compliance with the charter of the organization and with the 1975 resolution of the organization and with its resolution of March 1983 which provides guidelines for a unified pricing system.

The three ministers have also advised OPEC member states against adopting decisions independent of others which may further aggrevate the position of the oil exporting countries. The communique also calls on non-member states of OPEC to heed the decision of the organization since, in its judgement, their economic status inescapably suffers from the present circumstances.

Aqazadeh, Velayati Meet Bendjedid

LD181804 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Algiers, Feb 18, IRNA — The latest developments in the international oil market and plots hatched by Western industrialized countries to drive down oil prices were reviewed in a meeting between president Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria and visiting Iranian ministers of foreign affairs and oil, 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, here Tuesday.

At the meeting, the foreign affairs and oil ministers, here to participate in a tripartite meeting comprising Iran, Libya and Algeria, also discussed issues of mutual interests with the Algeria president.

Velayati Comments on Meetings
GF190717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Messers Velayti and Aqazade, foreign and oil ministers of our country who had gone to Algeria, accompanied by a delegation, arrived in Tehran this morning. Mr Velayati in an interview with our correspondent discussed the results of the trip:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Velayati, please tell us the result of the meetings you had during your trip to Algeria in which you were accompanied by our oil minister and some others. Also (?advise us of) the effects of such meetings on the oil prices.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As you are aware, the trip was the result of a decision by Libyan, Algerian, and Iranian oil ministers in their recent meeting in Tripoli. A Libyan delegation and our delegation went to Algeria as previously agreed upon. It was a comprehensive session of foreign and oil ministers of the three countries. Economy ministers from Libya and Algeria also participated. We had two general sessions. A committee was appointed by the three countries to review and draft the closing resolution. The committee ended its work yesterday morning and in the final session of the ministers the resolution was finally approved. It was decided that each of the three countries will undertake some missions in the coming days with respect to oil-producing countries irrespective of whether or not they are OPEC members. It was decided that a preliminary session of oil ministers of various oil-producing countries, together with deputy foreign ministers of these countries, should be held to prepare for the coming extraordinary session of oil ministers in Geneva. It was also decided that ways of opposing this deep-rooted plot to reduce the price of oil should be explored by member-countries, particularly by those who lead this opposition. The preliminary work for these actions has been completed. The three countries were united on and stressed further in the meeting the serious opposition to this situation, because this problem will seriously harm the oil-producing countries and cannot be ignored and easily passed by. The expectation we have from OPEC members is to abide by the fundamental OPEC decisions of the past, and particularly adhere to the OPEC philosophy — something for which it was created — that is to maintain the price. We believe that, God willing, serious political efforts by OPEC members can finally end the present trend. [End recording]

Return to Tehran
LD190907 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, 19 Feb. IRNA — Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, returned to Tehran early Wednesday morning after a three-day visit to Algeria and talks with their Algerian and Libyan counterparts on oil market situation.

Speaking to IRNA prior to his departure, Velayati said that during the tripartite meeting steps were taken by Libya, Algeria and Iran to encounter plots to push oil prices down and weaken OPEC. "We hope", he added, "the steps will lead to major decision."

In future, he added, there will be more negotiations among OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers.

He added that he delivered a letter from President 'Ali Khamene'i to President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria. During the meeting the Algerian president stressed that further steps should be taken for expansion of ties among oil producing countries to protect their common interest in international level.

The Iranian oil minister speaking to IRNA said that the three countries will firmly defend the oil production quota and prices set by OPEC.

During the tripartite meeting, he added, it was also decided that if conditions required, the three countries in order to defend the OPEC official price and quota, were willing to reduce their production and utilise their effort to encounter price cuts.

Aqazadeh said that further contacts will be made with other producers of the region to invite them to join Iran, Algeria and Libya in campaigning against price cuts.

On reports that Saudi Arabia will supply oil to Britain in exchange for purchase of 3 billion pounds worth of fighter planes from Britain, he said that undoubtedly Britain will sell this oil at a lower price in international market. This will further push oil prices down for the benefit of industrial countries.

Besharati Heads Delegation to Damascus, Tripoli
LD161657 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA — Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati heading a delegation left here Sunday for Tripoli and Damascus where he will deliver president 'Ali Khamene'i's messages for his Libyan and Syrian counterparts.

The purpose of Besharati's tour is to inform the governments of the two countries on the latest developments of the Iraqi imposed war, political impact of the Val-Fajr-8 operations in the region as well as the need for Muslim and progressive countries to coordinate their stances to counter the plots hatched by imperialism and Zionism.

The Iranian delegation is scheduled to hold talks with Syrian and Libyan officials on issues of mutual interest as well as close relations between the Islamic Republic and the two countries.

Arrives in Libya

LD180736 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 18, IRNA — The acting foreign affairs minister, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, carrying a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i for Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, arrived here Monday morning.

On issues to be discussed with Libyan officials, he said talks will also include deployment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime. He added that the Iraqi ruler was in his final days.

Besharati who was speaking to IRNA after arriving here, added that friendly relations between Iran and Libya required exchange of visits. He added that both countries held common views and that conspiracies of imperialism against Libya and Iran made it necessary for the two Muslim countries to coordinate their efforts in thwarting these plots.

Referring to the recent plots to cut oil prices down, Besharati called for joint efforts of Iran and Libya to encounter these vicious moves.

He also condemned maneuvers of the U.S. in Libyan waters and pledged support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Libya.

Envoy to Tripoli Meets With Libyan Oil Minister

LD161052 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, Feb. 16, IRNA — The Iranian ambassador to Tripoli, Mohammad Kazem Khansari, in a meeting with the Libyan oil minister, Fawzi al-Shakshuki, here Saturday discussed situation in oil market.

During the 40-minute meeting both sides stressed the need to control production of oil by OPEC members and also talked about ways of encountering plots to cut down oil prices.

PRC Foreign Ministry Advisor Arrives 18 Feb

LD181742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Mr Gong Dafei, the senior political adviser of the PRC Foreign Ministry, arrived in Tehran at the head of a delegation this afternoon and was welcomed at the airport by Mr Sheikh ol-Eslam, the Foreign Ministry political under secretary. During his visit he will hold meetings with our country's officials on strengthening bilateral relations and international cooperation.

Envoy Carries Khamene'i Message to India, Pakistan

LD161534 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] This morning the legal and parliamentary deputy of the Foreign Affairs Ministry left for India and Pakistan with a written message from Mr Khamene'i, our country's president, for the leaders of these two countries. The president's special envoy will brief the Indian and Pakistani authorities on the latest developments of the imposed war: the remarkable advance of the combatants of Islam, the political and military gains of these operations, and the inhumane deeds of the Iraqi regime.

Meets Rajiv Gandhi

LD182102 Tehran IRNA in English 1903 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 18, IRNA — India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Tuesday said that Iran is now in it most advantageous position for ending the war with Iraq, since the war's outbreak in 1980.

In meeting with visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister in Charge of Protocol and Parliamentary Affairs Mojtaba Mir-Mehdi here Tuesday, the Indian prime minister said that the crucial juncture for finishing a war is when one of the warring sides is taking the lead over the other.

The Indian prime minister said that Iran has one of Iraq's important cities under its control, and has achieved the upper hand in the war.

At the meeting, Mir-Mehdi submitted the Indian prime minister a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran regarding the latest developments in the Iraqi-imposed war, and Iran's stand in the conflict...

Outlining the crimes committed by the Iraqi regime in the course of the war Mir-Mehdi reiterated that the Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn should be tried as a war criminal and for having threatened world peace and human life.

On the Iranian Val-Fajr-8 operations, Mir-Mehdi said that the operations fully comply with international regulations in that they are pursued as part of a defensive war in keeping with international conventions.

He said that the silence of international organizations especially of the United Nations and the U.N. Security Council towards the Iraqi aggression against Iran, has left the Iranian nation with no alternative other than seek to attain its denied rights and its legitimate demands by resorting to a defensive war.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister said that the explicit condemnation of the Iraqi Government for its deployment of chemical weapons by the Non-Aligned Movement would certainly demonstrate the dedication of its member states to the cause of international justice and would thereby win back the trust of the Iranian people at this crucial juncture of the region's history.

Special Presidential Envoy Tours Gulf Arab Countries

Arrives in Doha

LD180727 Tehran IRNA in English 0716 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA — The special presidential envoy, Hosseyn Lavasani, arrived in Doha Monday, to explain the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Qatari officials.

Lavasani is scheduled to hold talks with the emir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifa ibn Hamad Al Thani and the minister of state for foreign affairs.

Discusses Iraq With Qatari Amir

LD181753 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA — "The Islamic Republic of Iran has no covetous eye on Iraqi territory and it has high respect for the Persian Gulf littoral states," said the foreign ministry's political director general in charge of Arab-African affairs Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani in a meeting with the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani in Doha Tuesday.

At the meeting Mr Lavasani said that silence of international organizations vis-a-vis the Iraqi-imposed war and their unprincipled approach to the issue has forced Iran to attain its just rights through its Armed Forces.

The Qatari amir expressed satisfaction at good neighborly relations with Iran and stressed that the Persian Gulf states should coordinate and exchange views on the current issues in the region in order to protect their interests against any foreign intervention by the superpowers.

In related news, the Foreign Ministry's political director general arrived in Manama, Bahrain later Tuesday.

Arrives in Bahrain

GF181828 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Brother Lavasani, director general of political affairs for Arab and African countries at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, arrived in Bahrain today to hold contacts with senior officials.

Brother Lavasani had left for Arab countries in the Persian Gulf to explain Saddam's crimes and violations of international law and the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Acting Envoy to UAE Meets Dubai Crown Prince

LD181752 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA — Acting head of the Islamic Republic's consulate general in Dubai, Hasan Farazandeh submitted Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi's message to the United Arab Emirates' deputy prime minister and Dubai's Crown Prince Shaykh Maktum ibn Rashid al-Maktum Tuesday.

In the meeting Farazandeh briefed the crown prince of Dubai on the latest developments in the Iraqi imposed war as well as Iraqi re-deployment of chemical weapons against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Envoy Expects France To 'Observe Neutrality'

LD151003 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Paris, Feb. 15, IRNA — The Iranian charge d'affairs to Paris, Gholam Reza Haddadi, warned international organizations and countries of the world on the consequences of the Iraqi infringement of international regulations on deployment of chemical weapons.

Speaking at a press conference here Friday, he said that the Islamic Republic of Iran expected the French Government to observe neutrality in the Iraqi imposed war and prove it.

When asked to comment on objectives of the trip of an Iranian economic delegation to Paris, he said that it aimed at following up negotiations on Iran's one-billion-dollar loan to the French Atomic Energy Commissary in 1975.

The French Government has guaranteed repayment of the loan with no condition but unfortunately due to irrational reasons it has so far refrained from repaying the loan, he added.

If the French Government respects implementation of international regulations, he told reporters, for the sake of its international prestige it should meet its commitment.

He said that negotiations were underway in this respect and hoped that the issue would be solved soon.

He added that Iran was also willing to hold negotiations on Eurodif [French Uranium Enrichment Consortium].

In reply to a question concerning the recent assassination attempts in Paris and attributing them to Iran, Haddadi said that Iran has always warned French authorities about presence of a group of terrorists who have fled Iran and are living in France.

These terrorists are remnants of the former regime and their hands are stained with blood of tens of people. The Iranian nation, he added, are the first victims of these terrorists.

Giving a brief account of the terrorist activities of the Munafiqeen (MKO) in Iran and how they fled to Paris by hijacking a plane, Haddadi said that the recent assassination attempts could be the work of these people who are financially and politically dependent on the Iraqi regime.

Their intention in carrying out such terrorist acts, he added, was to prevent normalization of relations between Iran and France.

Therefore, he added, the French Government should pay attention to this issue and eliminate these "nests of corruption".

On French hostages in Lebanon, he condemned terrorism in all forms and stressed that the issue was between France and Lebanon and had nothing to do with Iran.

Majlis Deputy Khalkhali Returns From Libya

LD141723 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA — Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali, the Majlis deputy from the holy city of Qom, arrived here Thursday night from a seven-day official visit to Libya.

Prior to his departure from the Libyan capital. Hoj. Khalkhali in an interview with Libyan state-owned news agency JANA, lauded Libya's support for the just stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Iraqi-imposed war. He also condemned the United States threats against Libya.

The Majlis deputy also announced Iran's support for the Tripoli government against any U.S. or Zionist aggression.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khalkhali was warmly seen off by under secretary general of Libya's General People's Congress and the Iranian ambassador at the airport.

SAIRI Notes 'Mounting Domestic Opposition' in Iraq

LD182309 Tehran International Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The news bulletin of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), quoting reliable sources in Baghdad wrote: The political and social conditions in the Iraqi capital are extremely chaotic.

According to this report, eyewitnesses have reported a vast and tangible presence of the Iraqi regime's security operatives in all areas of Baghdad, particularly in sensitive government centers, and attribute this to mounting domestic opposition and the situation on the battlefronts.

Additional Reportage on SAIRI Activities

'Massive' Rally Held in Tehran

LD141525 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 14, IRNA — Military forces affiliated to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), Muslim Iraqi Kurdish peshmergas (freedom fighters) and Iraqi prisoners of war staged a massive rally here Friday in support of Iranian Muslim combatants fighting the Iraqi Ba'thist troops in the battlefields.

The demonstrators carrying pictures of Imam Khomeyni and martyr Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Sadr marched in well organized ranks towards Tehran University chanting slogans 'Down with the Quds Occupying Regime'.

The marchers also called on Iraqi people to cut off the hands of aggressors from their country and join the 'marchers to Karabala'. caravans of Iranian volunteer forces going to the battiefronts.

The Muslim Iraqi peshmergas participating in the rally chanted slogans such as 'We Are Fighting for the Cause of Islam' and 'There Are No Differences Between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims' and 'The U.S. Is our Enemy.'

The women demonstrators carried placards in which they congratulated Iranian forces for liberating the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw and called on them to continue their defensive war of liberation.

At the end of the rally, the marchers entered Tehran University and stood in the ranks of worshippers of the Friday mass prayers.

Chief Meets Syria's Al-Shar'

LD170738 Tehran IRNA in English 0604 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17 IRNA — The head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abd al-'Aziz Hakim, currently in Damascus, in a meeting with the Syrian foreign minister, Faruq al-Shar', briefed him Sunday on the latest gains of the Iranian forces in war fronts.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, who is heading a SAIRI delegation, also informed the Syrian official on the Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons against the Iranian forces and its violation of human rights.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim expressed willingness of the Iraqi militant forces and also forces of SAIRI to take part in liberating more Iraqi territories.

He condemned recent moves of the reactionary governments of the region to assist Iraq and added that such stances will have an impact on the attitude of the future Government of Iraq towards these countries.

The Syrian foreign minister referred to the Iraqi ruler Saddam as the only source of problems, disorders and tension in the region who had to be removed. It is only then, he told the SAIRI delegation, that Islamic countries of the region could become mobilized against the Zionist regime.

Al-Shar' expressed his deep concern over Iraqi usage of chemical bombs and pledged support for the stances of the SAIRI.

The SAIRI delegation has also met with a number of other Syrian officials.

Seeks Exposure of Saddam's 'Crimes'

LD190003 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] In a statement the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq called on all Iraqi emigres living abroad to redouble their efforts in exposing the peoples of the world the crimes perpetrated by the Saddam regime.

According to a Central News Unit report the statement in part reads: Now that Al-Faw has been liberated and Islam's heroes are advancing towards Umm al-Qasr and the half-dead Saddam regime is on the verge of total collapse, the duty of every Iraqi

living abroad on the political and military arena is increasing. For this reason we should remain steadfast against the arrogant powers' and reactionary regimes' attempts at keeping alive this dying government and, with out continuous and active presence on the arena, we should neutralize the plots of the arrogant!

Iraq Reportedly Deports 500 Kurdish Families

LD182157 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Quoting the publication *AL-JIHAD*, the Central News Unit reports: Continuing its policy of suppressing the Iraqi Kurdish Muslim people, the Iraqi regime recently deported to an unknown locality 500 Iraqi Kurdish Muslim families after searching their homes. According to this report, this includes 300 families inhabiting Dahuk Province, 130 families from the city of 'Imadiyah, 80 families from the village of Bamunah in northern Iraq, and large numbers of families from other Kurdish inhabited cities in Iraq.

Further Reports on Iraq's Use of Chemical Weapons

Doctor Says Mustard, Tabun Used

LD181813 Tehran IRNA in English 1756 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Stockholm, Feb. 18, IRNA — A Swedish physician treating severely wounded Iranian chemical victims hospitalized here, has confirmed that their injuries were caused by toxic chemical substances.

Dr. Karl Jonson said that Swedish doctors treating chemically wounded Iranians earlier, have identified poisonous gases as being 'mustard and tabun.' He added that their exact composition will be clarified at a later date.

He also said that hospitalized victims are suffering from surface body burns as well as blood poisoning.

Some 43 wounded Iranian Muslim combatants of Iraqi chemical attacks have been dispatched to several European countries for treatment.

Professor Says New Type of Gas

LD190755 Tehran IRNA in English 0751 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Bonn, Feb. 19, IRNA — An Austrian professor treating Iranian chemical attack victims said Tuesday that evidences showed that Iraq had used a new type of poisonous gas against Iranian forces.

Speaking in a telephone interview with Radio Deutchland Funk, Professor Frylinger, a surgeon at Vienna University hospital, talked about health condition of eight Iranian chemical attack victims sent to Austria for further treatment. He said that severe burns in skin tissues and in the eyeball of the victims as well as respiratory malfunctioning and big blisters on their skin all indicated that the Iranian soldiers were poisoned with toxic chemical substances.

He said that the patients have been hospitalized in intensive care wards and are breathing through artificial respiratory devices.

Special treatments are given to the victims to neutralise the effect of poisonous substances on their skin, abdomen and intestine, the professor added.

He stressed that the type of the chemical gas deployed against Iranian forces has not been identified yet, adding that dryness of the patients' eyelid could be an indication for the deployment of a new gas.

He said that so far half the victims undergoing treatment in the hospital, have recovered.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Downing of F-5 Denied

LD171728 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' HQ. Feb. 17, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) categorically denied an Iraqi claim that its forces had downed an Iranian F-5 fighter Monday [17 February].

The spokesman said that Iranian warplanes heavily pounded Iraqi positions several times Monday, inflicting considerable casualties and damages on the enemy. He added that all the Iranian jet fighters returned to their bases.

The WIH spokesman also refuted Iraqi claims over the past two days that its forces had downed three Iranian F-4 jet fighters saying that the Iraqi regime has sustained fatal blows in air battles and had lost 36 warplanes.

Asked the spokesman rhetorically, "If Iraq does not pose such untrue claims, what on earth can it do?." The spokesman stressed that Iranian Muslim combatants will determinedly continue defensive battle and inflict additional lethal blows on the Iraqi regime.

Claims About Majnun 'Baseless'

LD171816 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters Monday [17 February] refuted Iraqi claims concerning military movements in southern Majnun Island and termed it as 'baseless'. The spokesman said that Iraqi regime had set forth such claims to overshadow its recent irreparable defeats in the battlefronts.

Forces Launch Two Attacks

LD181110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] According to a report received from the Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for the combined operations of

the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, last night the brave combatants of the army of monotheism launched two separate attacks along the Al-Faw-Basra and the Al-Faw-Umm al-Qasr axes in order to destroy more of the enemy forces. During these attacks on the positions of the defeated Iraqi Armed Forces, the Islamc combatants succeeded in destroying a large part of the enemy's armored and infantry forces and advanced inside their positions. Also during these victorious operations the forces of Islam destroyed more than 40 enemy tanks and personnel carriers and killed or wounded more than 400 troops, bringing to 14,400 the total number of the enemy dead and wounded since the start of the "Val-Fajr-8" operations. Several units of the disintegrating Ba'thist forces were crushed, and the military formations of their forces were disrupted.

Thanks to the efforts of our fast flying eagles of the Airborne Division another enemy helicopter gunship was downed today, bringing to five the total number of enemy helicopters downed since the start of these operations.

Also today the Islamic combatants completely repulsed enemy counterattacks in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational theater, and while in full control of all the frontlines and the captured regions they succeeded in crushing last-ditch efforts by the Ba'thist forces, inflicting further losses and casualties on the enemy.

Communqiue No 2385

LD181544 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA — Iran's fighter bombers and long-range artillery fire continued pounding Iraqi positions, armoured and engineering units in the western bank of the Arvand River Tuesday. The Iraqi forces sustained substantial casualties and losses, says a military communique here Tuesday.

Communique Number 2385 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran says that Iranian mortar and artillery fire on Iraqi positions in Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts Monday killed and wounded at least 10 Iraqi soldiers and demolished several gun emplacements, and three supply vehicles.

Iranian Muslim combatants checked all reconnaissance flights of Iraqi war planes and helicopters in the southern fronts Monday. Tactical operations of Iranian jet fighters and anti-aircraft fire of Iranian forces repulsed most of the Iraqi war planes, according to the communique.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique says, Iranian forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire Monday killing a number of Iraqi soldiers and destroying parts of positions and military hardware belonging to their infantry units. Several clashes broke out between Iranian patrol units and Iraqi forces in the said fronts Tuesday.

The Joint Staff communique says that artillery fire was exchanged between Iranian Islamic forces and Iraqi troops in the Majnun Islands more intensely than in other parts of the southern fronts Monday.

An Iraqi armoured unit in the areas overlooking Kani-Sheykh came under Iranian heavy artillery fire Monday as a result of which the Iraqi unit was forced to flee while incurring casualties and damage, reports the command.

Meanwhile, the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province was shelled by Iraqi forces Monday as a result of which over 30 houses and shops and part of the city's installations were damaged.

Newsmen Tour Captured Iraqi HQ

LD181725 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Faw, Feb. 18, IRNA — The headquarters of Iraq's 7th Corps seized by Iranian Islamic forces in the course of the ongoing Val-Fajr-8 operation was visited by IRNA correspondents here Tuesday.

Reports reaching here said that there are 20 rooms in the headquarters with a model of the operational region in its biggest room. A huge map on the wall of one of the rooms on which the name of Al-Faw is marked with red cross indicated the city's fall. Layout of the headquarters indicates that a group of Iraqi commanders were reviewing the latest developments in the region but had been forced to flee hours before fall of the headquarters. The HQ. is now in full control of Iranian forces.

Iraqi Penetration 'Repulsed'

LD181724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1634 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] A Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters communique announces that thanks to the staggering manliness of Islam's victorious troops, the enemy's feverish efforts today to penetrate the positions of Islam's combatants were severely and powerfully repulsed, and further heavy losses and casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

The Iraqi Army's senior commanders, by regrouping their forces, this morning and this afternoon made large-scale attempts to penetrate the firm ranks of Islam's forces. However, the admirable and incredible resistance displayed by Islam's forces inflicted yet another severe defeat on the enemy.

Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, the deputy operational head of the General Staff of the Iraqi Army, today directly assumed command of the defeated Iraqi forces, but the remorseless assaults launched by Islam's troops, and their vast mobility, once again inflicted the bitter taste of defeat on him and senior Iraqi officers. The deputy operational head of the General Staff of the Iraqi Army came to the warfronts following the transfer — under guard — to Baghdad of Major General Shawkat Ahmad 'Ata, and thereby assumed command of the Iraqi forces north of Al-Faw.

In the course of repulsing the enemy's counterattacks today, large quantities of the enemy's armor were destroyed and set

ablaze, hundreds of Iraqi troops were either killed or wounded, and the heavy fire opened by Islam's forces on enemy positions completely disrupted enemy movements and traffic. The pall of heavy, black smoke resulting from the destruction of heavy enemy equipment engulfed a part of the "Val-Fajr-8" operational theater.

An operational commander, in connection with the remorseless battle carried out today by Islam's corps, said that with their repeated assaults, Islam's combatants gave no respite to the enemy, forcing them into an extremely bad situation, so much so that this afternoon the enemy forces withdrew in order to flee from further blows. He said that Islam's combatants are fighting with such conviction that the enemy undoubtedly will not have the power to penetrate our positions.

State of Emergency in Basra
LD181740 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA — The Iraqi regime has recently declared a state of emergency in its second most important city of Basra in the wake of staggering casualties and losses its forces have incurred in the ongoing Val-Fajr-8 operation, according to reports from inside Iraq published by Tehran-based daily *AL-JIHAD* here Tuesday.

The daily said that the number of ambulances carrying Iraqi killed and wounded soldiers has considerably increased in Basra weakening the morale of Iraqi soldiers and spreading panic among Iraqi officers.

More Denials of Downed Planes
LD181741 Tehran IRNA in English 1726 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA — Iran Tuesday categorically denied an Iraqi claim that Iraqi forces had shot down two Iranian fighter bombers. A spokesman for Iran's War Information Headquarters (WIH) said here Tuesday that the Iraqi claim was a pure fabrication.

'Hundreds' of Iraqis Buried
LD182132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The task of counting, marking, and burying the bodies of those Iraqis killed during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations has begun. According to an IRNA report hundreds of bodies of dead Iraqis have been collected from the "Val-Fajr-8" operational theater and, after observing all religious rites, have been buried. According to the same report in burying the bodies of the enemy killed, as far as possible, an effort has been made to identify the names and addresses of these bodies and to record the same on their graves. Also sanitary groups have embarked on sterilizing the area. It is noteworthy that hundreds of bodies of the enemy dead were scattered in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational theater till this morning.

40th Iraqi Plane Shot Down
LD191107 Tehran IRNA in English 1104 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' HQ. Feb. 19, IRNA — Another Iraqi plane was shot down by Iranian fire in Val-Fajr-8 operation region Wednesday. This brings to 40 the number of downed enemy planes, since the operation started on Feb. 9.

Forces Thwart Counterattack
LD191132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Central News Unit correspondent's dispatch from the Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. When the infidels wage war against you, Muslims, they will turn away and flee in retreat, and they can find no one to assist them. [Koranic verse] In continuation of the battle of the forces of Islam against the infidels, which resulted in the destruction of [word indistinct] and the Iraqi presidential guard forces, the disintegrating enemy rallied several units of its defeated army and launched a counterattack yesterday evening. This counterattack, backed by tanks and armored personnel carriers, was launched along the Al-Faw-Umm al-Qasr highway axis. But the Islamic combatants relied on the Koranic verse that says: If you are assisted by God, no one will defeat you. In this way they witnessed God's assistance. Our God-seeking combatants resisted, and in the heat of the battle Almighty God granted his mercy in the form of heavy rain, hail, and strong winds. The heavy rain, strong wind, and dark clouds covered our troops from enemy eyes; and the enemy, in panic, was obstructed and its movement blocked by these divine blessings. The enemy tanks and personnal carriers, advancing in a line parallel to the Al-Faw-Umm al-Qasr road, were all bogged down in the mud, and the enemy was forced to retreat, leaving behind dozens of dead and wounded in the battle arena.

At the same time a number of Iraqi soldiers seized the opportunity and, while surrendering to our combative forces, requested asylum in the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the same time as yesterday's resistance by the brave warriors of Islam, the pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, braving the adverse weather conditions that were preventing the flights of the Iraqi Air Force, miraculously bombed the enemy's retreating lines along the Al-Faw-Umm al-Qasr road. After midnight last night the Islamic combatants started operations along the Al-Faw-Umm al-Qasr road and captured some new positions. Your sons, the sons of the Islamic ummah, while launching various operations against the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist enemy, have turned the "Val-Fajr-8" operational theater into a killing ground of Iraqi mercenaries and have said prayers of thanksgiving in their trenches. Our warriors not only have not become puffed up with their great victory, rather they have humbly realized God's might more than ever. However, they beg the Muslim ummah and the broken-hearted mothers and fathers, who stay awake all night, to say prayers for the warriors.

Commentary Views Saudi-British Arms Agreement

GF190811 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. During the past few days, final discussions ended on the largest arms deal between Saudi Arabia and the British Government; a $7 billion agreement was finally signed yesterday. According to this agreement Britain will deliver some 132 fighter and training aircraft to the Saudi Defense Ministry by the end of 1991.

Considering the current regional and world situation, the signing of such an immense contract between Saudi Arabia and the British Government is a matter for deliberation, especially because Saudi Arabia has undertaken to pay for this expensive agreement by delivering oil to the United Kingdom. At a time when the British Government is the flag-bearer of a calculated plot against the Muslim nations of the region, and by reducing the price of oil it has played the role it was given by international imperialism, the signing of a $7 billion contract between Saudi Arabia and the British is nothing but a reward for the blows it is dealing to the interests of the Muslims nations of the region. More important, the Saudi Government has undertaken to deliver the entire value of the contract in oil. This is one of the best ways to further encourage a drop in oil prices. Under the circumstances when the need for OPEC unity in the face of oppressive industrial powers is felt more than ever in order to neutralize the plot to reduce oil prices, and at a time when a threat to cut oil exports to the West can put them in their place, an agreement to exchange oil for such an immense contract which does not benefit the people of that country is an act completely opposite to any move to oppose any oil price reduction. The action further strengthens the view of economic experts that Saudi Arabia held secret discussions with Britain to reduce the price of oil. Another point is that according to reports, the United States was supposed to sell F-15 fighters to the Saudi Government. However, for some reason, it was decided that the British would sell them Tornados and that it undertook this deal after receiving approval from the Reagan administration. This proves that the reduction in oil prices was a coordinated effort by the imperialists, led by the United States, and not just an economic event. It was earlier said that the United States has promised the British Government to pay for any losses they incur from a drop in oil price. It seems that approval for an agreement with the Saudi Arabian Government to the tune of $7 billion is the best aid to this country to help its bankrupt economy.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Head on Paris Bombings

PM180707 Paris LE MATIN in French 11 Feb 86 p 14

[Interview with Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi by Franck Johannes — date and place not given]

[Text] As far as the Mohajedin-e Khalq are concerned there is no shadow of a doubt: Khomeyni is definitely behind the the wave of attacks in Paris in the past few weeks. "The Iranian regime wants to create an atmosphere of fear and terror," according to Mas'ud Rajavi, the leader of the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq who has taken refuge in France. "Khomeyni's aim is to test France's ability to resist the blackmail. Pressure and power relations are the only languages he understands.

"We are sure that Khomeyni is responsible for these outrages. Reliable sources in Tehran and abroad have confirmed to us that the Iranian regime was congratulating itself on the Paris bombs. They are exporting terrorism to fuel the crisis and to make France stop supporting Iraq against Iran. Khomeyni has therefore installed terrorists in Europe, particularly in the FRG. That is where they have most facilities. There are many Iranian consulates in the FRG. There is also a large number of clinics where the Iranian war wounded go for treatment."

The mojahedin leader says he has a complete plan of Iranian terrorist networks in Europe. According to him the Iranian ambassador in Cologne controls the actions of 22 networks, whose ramifications extend to France and Belgium. The Iranian center in Cologne, run by (Sa'id Mostefa) former lieutenant to the "butcher of Tehran" and responsible for violent repression of the mojahedin, is apparently the logistical center for terrorist activity. The Hamburg mosque is apparently also an important link in the organization which operates with the help of 46 of the 86 Iranians expelled form the FRG who have secretly returned.

"In France the police are probably on the right track with the questioning of the German Opel company," Mas'ud Rajavi remarked. "But they should investigate the Iranian Embassy in Paris. A representative of the Iranian interior minister, a charge d'affaires, and a member of the Islamic Republic's press agency are terrorist agents in Paris. Why are we speaking out now? Because we are certain that Khomeyni is prepared to do anything to step up the terror. He is using the people's money, not his own. And we want to neutralize him.

"With this detailed information, the wave of attacks will perhaps stop. This depends primarily on your government's attitude. Khomeyni is just waiting for a sign of compromise or weakness to continue. Paris is a test for Tehran."

Correction to Khomeyni Anniversary Address

The following correction pertains to Khomeyni's revolution anniversary address published in the 11 February South Asia *DAILY REPORT* on pages I 1-3:

Page I 1, first paragraph, penultimate line should read: ...to another tyrant who is like him or worse than him. If you observe the revolutions that have taken place in the world and the coups d'etat that take place everyday and have taken place, look at the conditions there. Has a revolution taken place by taking advantage of the people? Has one power been set aside and another similar individual, or one even worse, been brought to power? There are differences in the condition of these nations or perhaps the condition has deteriorated. People should study revolutions such as the French and Soviet revolutions and learn about the conditions that existed before and after the revolutions. Has anything been gained by those nations? Have they thought about the people or is everything still being done by acts of force or strength?

The revolution which... (supplying indistinct passage);

paragraph two, line four should read: ...toward an Islam that had been relegated to oblivion up to this time, particularly in the last few centuries in the form of a dry discipline that did not harm others. All that was left of Islam was one that did not care for the condition of the nations. This nation, by... (confirming word, providing indistinct sentence);

same paragraph, antepenultimate line should read: ...revolution took place. Had that not happened, the revolution here would have been like any of these other revolutions which you are seeing now and have seen.

What was achieved... (confirming words, supplying indistinct words);

paragraph six, line four should read: ...saw what a small [jozv] government in a small country did to the people and the hands of the people could not... (supplying indistinct words);

same paragraph, line seventeen should read: ...to get together and 10 people were given such power, we would not... (supplying indistinct words and rewording);

paragraph eight, line eight should read: ...they were told the Shari'a says so, God... (supplying indistinct words);

page I 2, paragraph four, line two should read: ...to [our] president? What is it to them? They greet Iran with eggs and hatred. If they say... (supplying indistinct words);

paragraph five, penultimate line should read: ...much opposition, our problems are fewer than... (confirming word);

paragraph seven, line two should read: ...Iran; protest to the mass media. They want to... (rewording);

paragraph eight, penultimate line should read: ../to achieve results. Our nation, which is always in this state, such as the condition of the Karbala marchers, is in a state of growth. If, God forbid, one weakness creeps in, and this condition is lost, the former problems, the former your majesty and even a president worse than him, will surface.

You must have... (supplying indistinct sentence);

page I 3, paragraph three, line five should read: ...is the judgement, that is the judgement [as heard] Why? Curses on Khejeh Nasir [not further identified]. Because the mullah... (supplying indistinct words).